

tion, when formed, is to be approved, not by the people, who are to live under it, but by the Congress of the United States, with power in the Congress to approve, modify, or reject the same: and with a test oath framed with apparent intent to reverse the principle, that the majority of the people ought to rule.

It is remarkable that the avowed and prominent projectors of this scheme were distinguished actors in the origination of the present State government, and have sought, or hold office under it.

Under these circumstances, I assume, by the choice of my countrymen, the painfully responsible duties of Governor of the State, without time, in carefully considered commentary, to review these revolutionary movements.

I can only add to the solemn oath which I have just taken, that feeling profoundly the responsibility of the position in which I am placed by the confidence of my countrymen, I shall constantly and fervently pray that the Ruler of the universe will endow me with wisdom equal to the impending emergencies.

I ardently desire, independent of my official oath, to maintain and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of North Carolina, and cannot, therefore, assent to any scheme of compromise based on the idea that North Carolina is not a State of the American Union; nor to any scheme of amending the original compact, which the State shall have no hand in proposing. I feel as profoundly as any body can feel, the necessity of composing, on a permanent basis, our national dissensions, and have been unable to conceive of any other means so well adapted to effect this end, as that prescribed by the wisdom of our fathers in the fifth article of the Constitution of the United States.

My intercourse with the people of the North leads me to believe, that the great body of them do not entertain towards us the destroying malevolence, which we would infer from the speeches of many of their intemperate partizan leaders and a portion of the press. The great mass of the nation is patriotic, with becoming charity for what they deem the errors of other sections; but the partizan fury of ambitious dema-